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## Senate

The Senate met at 9:31 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable KIRSTEN E. GILLIBRAND, a Senator from the State of New York.

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Most merciful and gracious God, who has led this Nation through turbulent times in the past, keep us this day confident in the movements of Your loving providence. Ignite in our hearts the hope that out of the world's challenges and tragedies, Your spirit can guide us to a desired destination.

Today, give our lawmakers a clear sense of duty and honor in every decision. May they live and work not alone or by their own efforts but in Your strength and by Your wisdom. May Your justice, purity, and peace guide them to develop plans and make policies that will enable Your will to be done on Earth as it is done in Heaven.

We pray in Your strong Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable KIRSTEN E. GILLIBRAND, a Senator from the State of New York, led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

The assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,  
Washington, DC, July 9, 2009.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby

appoint the Honorable KIRSTEN E. GILLIBRAND, a Senator from the State of New York, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,  
President pro tempore.

Mrs. GILLIBRAND thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

### SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Madam President, following leader remarks, there will be a period for morning business for 95 minutes. Senator DURBIN will control the first 5 minutes, the Republicans will control the next 60 minutes, and the majority will control the next 30 minutes. Following morning business, the Senate will resume consideration of H.R. 2892, the Homeland Security Appropriations bill. There will then be 10 minutes for debate prior to a vote in relation to a Kyl amendment, No. 1432. Additional rollcall votes are expected to occur throughout the day as we work toward completion of the appropriations bill.

I filed cloture last night on the substitute amendment and the underlying bill. As a result, germane first-degree amendments must be filed by 1 p.m. today.

There is a strong possibility—and I hope, on my behalf—that cloture will not be necessary and we will be able to complete action on the bill today. If we are unable to finish that bill, we will have cloture tomorrow morning, maybe into the weekend.

I acknowledge the cooperation and support of the Republicans in allowing us to move to the Defense bill, a very important bill. We are doing our best to accomplish what we set out to do

this week and not have to be in this weekend. That would be better for everyone. We all have a lot of things to do. This weekend, if we have to be here, will be a series of cloture votes and we hope that is unnecessary.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader is recognized.

### SOTOMAYOR NOMINATION

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, over the past several weeks, my colleagues and I have raised a number of serious questions about the judicial record and public statements of Judge Sonia Sotomayor in connection with her nomination and upcoming confirmation hearings to the U.S. Supreme Court. These questions are driven by a growing sense, based strictly on the record, that Judge Sotomayor has allowed her personal and political views to cloud her judgment in the courtroom, leading her to favor some groups over others.

All of us are impressed by Judge Sotomayor's remarkable life story. It reaffirms not only to Americans but to people around the world that ours is a country in which one's willingness to dream and to work hard remain the only requirements for success.

And yet it is precisely this truth about America that makes it so important that our judges apply the law the same way to one individual or group as to every other.

This is why we have raised the questions we have. And this is why we will continue to raise them as the confirmation hearings for Judge Sotomayor proceed. This morning I would like to discuss an area of Judge Sotomayor's record that hasn't been touched upon yet, and that is her record on the fundamental right of free speech.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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